

Grand Forks AFB with the 319th Air Refueling Wing, a "core" tanker unit of KC-135 Stratotankers. I hope that the 319th and the Air Force will be with us in North Dakota for many years to come.

Today, Mr. President, as the 321st prepares to retire its colors, I would send to the 321st Missile Group, all who have and do serve her, and the Untied States Air Force that has protected us so well, a message of thanks and congratulations. The Senate—and all Americans—owe you a deep debt of gratitude.●

RECOGNITION OF THE JEFFERSON CITY SAMARITAN CENTER

● Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I rise to recognize the Samaritan Center of Jefferson City, on the occasion of the groundbreaking for a new home. More than decade ago, Samaritan Center began as an effort of five Mid-Missouri Catholic churches. Three Protestant churches joined the cause and Samaritan Center has operated ever since as an interfaith agency. Virtually all of its resources are devoted directly to service delivery, as the center's single paid employee, an operations manager, is assisted by more than 150 volunteers each month.

Respectful, loving service is delivered with firm supervision, and anyone who knows the center pays tribute to the practical assistance they provide. For example, during the historic Flood of 1993, which wiped out the life stake of so many Missouri farmers, the center not only donated food, clothing, diapers and utility assistance to make it through the winter; they also came through with help to get the crop in when spring arrived. Many folks got back on their feet thanks to this helping hand, and those who saw what it meant to these families will never forget it.

I am one who marvels at how far the center can stretch its help. I have visited and left with my faith in people renewed. The computer is donated, the employees unpaid, the furniture cast-offs—but the service is sterling and as varied as the need.

This groundbreaking is another step toward meeting a new challenge the Samaritan Center is taking on. The current quarters are bursting at the seams, and new space must be found to continue to help the families they serve (which number more than 400 each month for food alone!). Characteristically, the center refuses to reduce service to pay for the new building they hope to place on land donated by supporters. So, in addition to continuing to help people with needs ranging from rent to work uniforms, the center and its friends are not so slowly and very surely piecing together the resources to build a site that meets the needs of Mid-Missouri today.

To know the Samaritan Center is to respect and support it. It is my honor to offer this tribute from the United

States Senate on the loving service provided by the Center, its volunteer and many supporters.●

INTERNATIONAL DAY IN SUPPORT OF TORTURE VICTIMS AND SURVIVORS

● Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I rise today to mark the first observance of International Day in Support of Torture Victims and Survivors. This day, which was designated last year by the United Nations General Assembly, serves as a reminder to all of us that, sadly, at this very moment, somewhere in the world a prisoner is being beaten, a woman is being raped, or a child is witnessing the torture or murder of a loved one at the hands of a hostile force.

Along with guns and bombs, torture unfortunately has become just another weapon in the arsenal of war. In generations past, we like to believe that wars were fought between combatants according to an unwritten code. In some conflicts of the past, fighting was suspended after dark and during the winter months so as not to give one side an advantage over the other. But the rules of contemporary wars are much less clear. Combatants fight, not merely against each other, but against civilians, including women and children, on the opposing side. War is no longer just a means to acquire territory or settle long-running disputes, but often it is used as a means to attempt to obliterate entire ethnic or religious groups.

In this past decade alone, the world has been witness to inconceivable acts of horror committed against specific populations in such places as Rwanda, Sudan, Iraq, the former Yugoslavia, and Kosovo. The terms "ethnic cleansing" and "genocide" have become all too common in describing events around the world. And the stories of those torture victims who live to tell of their experiences continue to shock and horrify the international community.

Earlier this month, during the National Day of Action for Tibet rally which took place on the Capitol steps, I was privileged to hear the comments of Palden Gyatso, a Buddhist monk who was imprisoned for 33 years by the Chinese force which unlawfully occupies his homeland. He told of unspeakable acts of torture that are routinely committed against the Tibetan people by the Chinese military. The myriad forms of torture he was forced to endure included being hung upside down while his naked body was repeatedly stung with an electric cattle prod and having boiling water poured over his body. That he was able to survive this brutal treatment is a testament to his faith, which his captors attempted to squelch through these and other inhuman acts.

But for every person like Palden Gyatso, who somehow managed to survive such brutal treatment, there are

countless others, whose names we may never know, who did not. These people endured their fate with a quiet courage that inspires hundreds of thousands worldwide to fight against the practice of torture as a weapon of war.

I find it particularly ironic that the President is spending the first International Day in Support of Torture Victims and Survivors in the People's Republic of China as the guest of a government that has sanctioned the torture of its own citizens. I hope the President will mark this day by calling on Chinese leaders to open a meaningful dialogue with the Dalai Lama regarding Tibet and to gain assurances that the basic human rights of all Chinese citizens will become a top priority.

Since coming to the Senate in 1993, I have been contacted by numerous Wisconsin residents who share the concern of the international community about the prevalence of torture in our world. As a member of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, I will continue to speak out against such reprehensible acts at every available opportunity. I look forward to the day when the use of torture as a weapon of war is consigned to history books instead of daily news reports from around the world.●

FEDERAL RESEARCH INVESTMENT ACT OF 1998

● Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, yesterday I introduced legislation that would elevate Congress' commitment to federally-funded research and development. This critical federal investment, performed throughout our national laboratories, universities, and private industry, is currently fueling 50% of our national economy through improvements in capital and labor productivity. While it is imperative that we reinforce this commitment by raising the funding levels, we must also establish a solid foundation for Congress to evaluate current and future civilian federally-funded research and development programs.

Now is not the time to let American leadership in science and technology slip. As a Congress and as a nation, we must reaffirm our national commitment to science and technology and redouble our efforts to ensure that funding is not only maintained, but increased as America moves into the next century. Nothing less than the future of our Nation, and our leadership position in the world, depend upon it.

IMPORTANCE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY TO AMERICA'S FUTURE

As a physician and surgeon, I've had the opportunity to witness everyday the remarkable difference that medical science and technology have made in people's lives. In the short span of time that I've been practicing—less than twenty years—I've seen how the products of medical research and development—lasers, mechanical cardiac assist devices, and automatic internal defibrillators—have not only saved, but

vastly improved the quality of hundreds of thousands of lives every year.

As a physician, I can envision a future in which science and technology will roll back the current frontiers of medical knowledge, identify the causes, and eliminate most of the effects of the diseases that now plague mankind.

But, as a Senator, I've been afforded another opportunity. The ability to see, and learn, and understand, not just medicine—but America. I can envision the difference that science and technology will make in the life of our Nation.

Science and technology have had a profound impact on our world. We've put men into space and looked into the farthest corners of the known universe. We've broken the code of the human genome and begun to dismantle previously intractable diseases. We've created a virtual world and a whole new realm called cyberspace.

Our world runs on technology, and much of our economy runs on it as well. In fact, half of all U.S. economic growth is the result of technological progress. Technology has provided new goods and services, new jobs, and new capital—even whole new industries.

Without a doubt, technology is the principle driving force behind America's long-term economic growth and our rising standard of living.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ARE IMPORTANT TO TENNESSEE

Science is especially important to Tennessee. From the Oak Ridge Laboratories' important contributions to America's security during the Cold War, to today's research university partnerships, science and technology are a big part of Tennessee's past, present and future.

In 1995, the latest year for which figures are available—

20 out of every 1,000 private sector workers in Tennessee were employed by high tech firms. The total payroll for those workers that year reached \$1.5 billion.

And every one of them earned, on average, \$12,000 more per year than they would have in another type of private sector job in Tennessee.

Of Tennessee's \$8.8 billion export market, high technology products accounted for \$2.1 billion or 24 percent.

But significant growth and activity have occurred since 1995. The technology corridor, now being forged in East Tennessee, will be a model for America's 21st Century economy. From Chattanooga to Knoxville, and Oak Ridge to the Tri-Cities, private industry and working partnerships between the public and private sectors, and between research universities and industry, are creating jobs and opportunity; thus linking Tennessee to the nation and the world.

For example, in Kingsport, Tennessee, Eastman Chemical produces more than 400 different kinds of modern chemicals, fibers, and plastics—as well as a wide range of intellectual

property technologies that will soon be marketed on a global scale.

In Tri-Cities, the new Regional Med-Tech Center is a planned, large-scale, integrated development project that will one day link health care delivery systems and related research with high technology business.

And the Spallation Neutron Source, a major undertaking of Oak Ridge Laboratory, when completed, will be the most powerful spallation source of neutrons in the world: enabling scientists to "see", and thus understand, the physical, chemical and biological properties of materials at the atomic level.

AMERICA'S INVESTMENT IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY MUST CONTINUE

Clearly, America's investment in science and technology must continue. Mr. President, the history of the last five decades has shown us that there is a federal role in the creation and nurturing of science and technology, and that—even in times of fiscal austerity—Congress' commitment has been relatively constant.

However, the last three decades have also shown us something else: fiscal reality. The simple truth is that there's just not enough money to do everything we'd like to do. Discretionary spending is under immense fiscal pressure. One only has to look back over the last 30 years to confirm the trend. In 1965, mandatory federal spending on entitlements and interest on the debt accounted for 30 percent of the federal budget. Fully 70 percent went toward discretionary programs—roads, bridges, education, research, national parks, and national defense.

Today, just 30 years later, that ratio has been almost completely reversed: 67 percent of the budget is spent on mandatory programs; leaving only 33 percent for everything else. This situation will only grow worse as the Baby Boom generation begins to retire.

Thus, Mr. President, we have both a long-term problem: addressing the ever-increasing level of mandatory spending; and a near-term challenge: apportioning the ever-dwindling amount of discretionary funding. The confluence of increased dependency on technology and decreased fiscal flexibility has created a problem too obvious to ignore: not all deserving programs can be funded; not all authorized programs can be fully implemented.

In other words, Mr. President, the luxury of fully funding science and technology programs across the board has long since passed. We must set priorities.

FEDERAL RESEARCH INVESTMENT ACT: VISION FOR THE FUTURE

The Federal Research Investment Act that I am introducing today represents the result of over a year of debate surrounding increased funding for federal research and development. I commend my colleagues, Senators GRAMM, LIEBERMAN, DOMENICI, and BINGAMAN, for not only commencing this debate, but also continuing it. Like my colleagues, I firmly believe

that Congress must reaffirm our national commitment to science and technology. And that is precisely what the Federal Research Investment Act achieves through its strategy for the future—a vision that not only provides adequate levels of funding, but most importantly, ensures that the funding is both responsible and accountable over the long-term.

This legislation realizes this goal by establishing and applying a set of guiding principles, established by the Science and Technology Caucus here in the Senate, to consistently ask the appropriate questions about each competing technology program; to focus on that program's effectiveness and appropriateness for federal funding; and to help us make the hard choices about which programs deserve to be funded and which do not. Only then can Congress be assured that it has invested wisely.

These guiding principles, Mr. President, provide a framework that will not only guide the creation of new, federally-funded research and development programs, but also validate existing ones. Taken together, they create a powerful method for evaluating the debate by increasing Congress' ability to focus on the important issues, decreasing the likelihood that it will get sidetracked on politically-charged technicalities, and ensuring that federal R&D programs are consistent and effective. These principles will also help us establish national goals, and a vision for the future.

The Federal Research Investment Act doubles the aggregate amount of civilian funding for research and development over a 12 year period. By steadily increasing the total level by 2.5 percent, in addition to the assumed rate of inflation, this legislation would provide Congress with realistic targets for prioritizing fundamental, scientific, and pre-competitive engineering research over the long-term.

Furthermore, this legislation has two components that I believe will change the face of how taxpayer dollars are invested in research and development. First, under this bill, the President would be required to submit, as part of his annual budget to Congress, a detailed report on how the Administration is paralleling Congressional funding goals. Thus, the President will be held accountable for how his budget achieves Congressional targets to double R&D spending over 12 years.

Second, the Office of Science and Technology Policy will commission the National Academy of Sciences to conduct a comprehensive study to develop methods for evaluating Federally-funded research and development programs. The results of this study, in coordination with Government Performance Results Act, will provide a framework to help Congress and the Administration measure the success of federal programs. Only after Congress holds federal agencies accountable to strict, yet fair standards, will the legislative body

be able to claim that is acting responsibly on behalf of American citizens.

In closing Mr. President, I would like to urge my colleagues to support the Federal Research Investment Act. I further challenge each of you to reach out to your own universities and engage them in this critical dialogue as to the future of science and technology funding. This federal funding, after all, is a public investment in America's future.●

TRADE SANCTIONS COMPENSATION

● Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, yesterday I introduced a bill to compensate farmers if we choose to continue using food as a weapon. I do not support the use of food in this way, but if this country chooses to use food as a weapon, then the producers of that weapon deserve to be compensated, just as all other weapons manufacturers are compensated.

Today, ten percent of the world's wheat markets are off limits to American farmers because of sanctions. If we include the recent loss of the markets in Pakistan and India, sixteen percent of the world's markets are not available. Farmers in my state, and farmers across this nation, cannot afford to pay for this foreign policy option out of their own pockets.

This bill amends an existing statute which is so narrowly drawn that, despite ongoing sanctions, the statute has not required any compensation to farmers. The existing statute requires that the sanction be imposed by the executive branch of government, be unilateral, and not be joined by any other nation. It also limits compensation to three years and allows the Secretary of Agriculture to choose between direct compensation and export assistance programs.

This bill eliminates all of the restrictions in the existing statute which preclude it from being of any assistance to farmers hit by declining prices caused by lost export markets. The new statute will make it clear that, if our government chooses to use food as a weapon, then those who produce that food will not alone bear the financial burden. I ask that my colleagues join me in passage of this bill to ensure fairness in our foreign trade policy.●

THE PROGRAM FOR INVESTMENT IN MICRO-ENTREPRENEURS OF 1998

● Mr. KERRY. Last week I joined Senators KENNEDY, DOMENICI and BINGAMAN in introducing a bill to establish the PRIME program for investment in microenterprise. I applaud Senators KENNEDY and DOMENICI for their work in developing this legislation and welcome their efforts in supporting the development of business skills for micro-entrepreneurs. Access to education and training is critical for the development of small businesses in the United States.

Developing microenterprise is crucial to the financial health of our nation. Small businesses have been the engine of growth in our economy and have provided virtually all of our country's net new jobs. Very small businesses, those with four or fewer employees, created more jobs from 1992 through 1996 than large businesses employing more than 500 workers. However, many of those who yearn to turn an innovative idea into a marketable product need assistance in developing the skills and knowledge necessary to succeed in today's competitive marketplace. That is why, as Ranking Democratic Member of the Senate Small Business Committee, I have been such a strong supporter of programs to assist microenterprise development, especially through the microloan program within the Small Business Administration. This program has provided \$67 million in microloans to very small businesses in every state. A great percentage of microloans have gone to traditionally underserved groups, including 43 percent to women-owned businesses, 39 percent to minority-owned businesses and 11 percent to veteran-owned businesses. I am committed to seeing this and other programs that assist microenterprise grow and thrive.

The Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) fund represents another type of community investment initiative. It uses limited federal resources to invest in and build the capacity of private, for profit and nonprofit financial institutions, leveraging private capital and private-sector talent and creativity. The fund's main program allows local CDFIs to apply for financial and technical assistance. This funding can be used to support basic financial services, housing for low-income people, businesses that provide jobs for low-income people and technical assistance for capacity-building, training, and development of programs, investments or loans. The CDFI fund offers a combination of increased access to capital and institutional capacity building that is vital to low-income communities, and fill a need that the marketplace is not meeting.

We have all heard a lot about the need for individual responsibility, family responsibility, and community responsibility. The microenterprise program within CDFI give us an opportunity to lend a helping hand to those in need of financial aid and technical assistance so they can fulfill their personal, family, and community responsibilities. It has given many a chance to break the cycle of poverty and welfare and move toward individual responsibility and financial independence.

The PRIME bill introduced last week seeks to increase CDFI's funding for technical assistance to give micro-entrepreneurs access to information on developing a business plan, record-keeping, planning, financing and marketing that are crucial in the develop-

ment of a small business. Furthermore, this legislation will sponsor research on the most innovative and successful ways of encouraging these new businesses and enabling them to succeed.

This legislation will allow organizations which assist microenterprises to develop new products and services for their customers and expand on existing services. In Massachusetts, Working Capital, a recipient of a Presidential Award for Excellence in Microenterprise Development in 1997, currently offers three complementary programs to its microenterprise customers which could be eligible for additional funding under the PRIME legislation. First, Working Capital provides business credit to micro-entrepreneurs. Second, they provide business education and training on how to draw up business plans and prepare financial projections, and how to use these tools in managing their businesses. Third, they offer networking opportunities to connect micro-entrepreneurs to each other and give them a sense of belonging within a community which faces the same challenges.

The PRIME legislation will assist in the development of programs such as those offered by Working Capital in Massachusetts and similar organizations across the country and will assist more Americans in taking a chance on the American dream of owning their own small business. I look forward to working with my colleagues to enact this important legislation.●

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT REQUEST— H.R. 2614

Mr. LOTT. I now ask unanimous consent the Senate turn to Calendar No. 404, H.R. 2614, the Reading Excellence Act, and immediately following the reporting by the clerk, the chairman be recognized to withdraw the committee amendment and there be 30 minutes for debate to be equally divided in the usual form with no amendments or motions in order.

I further ask that following the conclusion or yielding back of time, the Senate proceed to vote on passage of H.R. 2614, all without any intervening action or debate.

I would like to note that I have discussed this with White House officials, and they have urged that we try to find a way to get this legislation up. Actually, this was a week or two ago, so we have been trying to get something worked out. I would like very much for us to be able to do that.

Mr. FORD. Reserving the right to object, Mr. President, and I do not have any caveat to the unanimous-consent agreement, but would the majority leader modify his request to include an amendment from the Democratic side which would be the only amendment in order, and that it be the text of the committee-reported substitute amendment as modified; that there would be 1 hour for debate on the amendment equally divided, and that upon the use